

# **DRAFT**

## **EXAMINING BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL GEOLOGISTS, HYDROLOGISTS, AND SOIL SCIENTISTS MINUTES SEPTEMBER 18, 2003**

**PRESENT:** Stephen Donohue (via telephone), Tracy Benzel, Robert Wendt, David Mickelson, Ruth G. Johnson, Wayne Lindgren, Thomas Evans

**EXCUSED:** Joan Underwood, Robert J. Karnauskas, Jon H. Guntow

**STAFF PRESENT:** Jerry Lowrie, Bureau Director; William Black, Legal Counsel; Pat Schenck, Program Assistant

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Stephen Donohue called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. A quorum of 7 members was present.

### **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

**MOTION:** Thomas Evans moved, seconded by David Mickelson, to approve the agenda as written. Motion carried unanimously.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES (10/03/2002)**

**MOTION:** David Mickelson moved, seconded by Ruth G. Johnson, to approve the October 3, 2002 minutes as written. Motion carried unanimously.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT - JERRY LOWRIE, BUREAU DIRECTOR**

Jerry Lowrie, Bureau Director, introduced himself to the Board members and gave a summary of his background in state government and in the public sector. Introductions were made around the table.

Questions were raised regarding the Department's budget crisis. William Black reported on the amount of credentialing and renewal fees the Department receives and the percentage of funds the Department is required to lapse into the States General Fund.

## **BOARD ROSTER**

Joan Underwood, Geologist Section, new cell phone number (920) 377-1363.  
David Mickelson, Geologist Section, add cell phone (608) 225-9200.

## **2003 MEETING DATES**

Next meeting in 2004.

## **2004 MEETING DATES**

The meeting dates for 2004 will be finalized in October, 2003.

## **TO-DO LIST**

The Joint Board members reviewed each item on the "To-Do-List".  
Tracy Benzel will write an article on preparing for the Soil Science exam for the Regulatory Digest Newsletter.

## **REGULATORY DIGEST NEWSLETTER**

The Joint Board members reviewed the last Regulatory Digest Newsletter published in February 2003 for the Joint Board.

The Department is looking at creating an electronic version of the Regulatory Digest Newsletter.

## **TRAVEL**

Jerry Lowrie distributed the Departments revised Travel Policy. Funding is available for out-of-state travel for one Board member per Board in one Fiscal Year, or two members if funding is provided by a regional or national conference for one member.

Mr. Lowrie will check if travel funds are available for each Section or if the Department considers all three Sections as one Board.

## **SECTION REPORTS GEOLOGISTS, DAVID MICKELSON**

David Mickelson reported that there are currently 1202 registrants in Geology. Joan

Underwood is representing the Board at the Professional Exam Task Analysis in January 2004.

### **HYDROLOGISTS, STEPHEN DONOHUE**

Nothing to report at this time. Mr. Donohue stated the need for another Professional Section member to be appointed to the Hydrology Section so they can get back to work. When one member is absent they have been unable to have a meeting for lack of a quorum. The Section's last meeting was on October 3, 2002.

### **SOIL SCIENTISTS, TRACY BENZEL**

Tracy Benzel attended the Council of Soil Science Examiners Workshop and reported that he learned a lot about writing the practical exam. Mr. Benzel will write an article on preparing for Soil Science Exams for the Regulatory Digest Newsletter. One-third of the exam is rewritten every year. There are new questions on the exam every three years. Continuing Education was discussed with no progress.

Mr. Benzel recommended that Board members rotate attending the Council of Soil Science Examiners Exam Development Workshop to gain experience and knowledge in the exam writing process. The next exam they will be working on is the fundamental examination in June of 2004. Wisconsin must be represented to work on the Fundamental examination in June. Mr. Benzel will check on whether or not Wisconsin's representative must be a member of the Board, a professor, or licensed Soil Scientist in Wisconsin.

### **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

None.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE RULES**

None.

### **REPORT FROM GHSS JOINT BOARD RULES COMMITTEE**

Nothing to report.

## **INTER-AGENCY LIAISON COMMITTEE**

The Joint Board members discussed at length the need for continuation of the Inter-Agency Liaison Committee. Jerry Lowrie reported that Deputy Secretary Mary Schlaefer would be taking the lead of this committee and will be contacting other agencies at the upper agency level. The Board agreed that Deputy Secretary Mary Schlaefer may have a stronger impact in working with other agencies at the higher levels.

The Board's concerned about the individuals working as Hydrologist, Geologists, and Soil Scientist in Wisconsin that are unlicensed with the Department of Regulation and Licensing.

The Department of Natural Resources, Commerce, and Department of Agriculture Trade and Consumer Protection have people working as Hydrologists, Geologists, and Soil Scientists, but do not state in their Administrative Code that they must be licensed with the Department of Regulation and Licensing to work under these titles in Wisconsin. The result is fewer applicants are becoming licensed with the Department of Regulation and Licensing and many are practicing without a license. Wisconsin law states they must have a license to practice in these professions in Wisconsin.

Each Board member was requested to compile Administrative Rules relative to their professions and forward them to Tracy Benzel.

## **PRACTICE ISSUES**

The Board suggested mailing letters to professors, teachers, and Heads of Departments of Universities, Colleges, and Tech Schools with degrees in Soil Science or similar degrees explaining the requirement for licensure in the State of Wisconsin and request that they encourage Seniors to sign up for the Fundamental Soil Science Exam by November for the Spring Exam.

## **COMPILATION OF STATUTES AND ADMINISTRATIVE CODE REFERENCES FOR GHSS PROFESSIONS**

The Board members are working on compiling administrative rules for Geologists, Soil Science and Hydrologist.

## **MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE/INFORMATION**

None.

## **UNAUTHORIZED PRACTICE OF LAW UPDATE**

Jerry Lowrie distributed information the State Bar is taking before the Supreme Court in order to create a Committee of Study at the November 18, 2003 Hearing.

The Board discussed how this new law would impact their professions. The Board agreed to send a letter of concern to the Supreme Court to explain the Boards concerns and how it will impact their professions, with a request that Mike Davey be appointed to this Committee to provide some guidance on this issue.

The Board requested that Steve Donohue draft a letter to the Supreme Court addressing the Boards concerns.

**MOTION:** Steve Donohue moved, seconded by Thomas Evans, to request that Steve Donohue draft a letter to the Supreme Court on Department letterhead, stating the Board opposes rewriting the rule, but if it's going to occur then the Board would press for the appointment of Mike Davey for professional input and guidance in drafting the rule on the Boards behalf. Motion carried unanimously.

**MOTION:** Tracy Benzel moved, seconded by Wayne Lindgren, to amend the last motion and request that Steve Donohue draft and sign a letter to the Supreme Court on Department letterhead, stating the Board opposes rewriting the rule, but if it's going to occur the Board would press for the appointment of Mike Davey for professional input and guidance in drafting the rule on the Boards behalf. Motion carried unanimously.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

None.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** Tracy Benzel moved, seconded by David Mickelson, to adjourn the meeting at 11:30 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

## **NEXT MEETING: NOT SCHEDULED**